

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 34, 35, 38, 40, 41, and 55, and cancel claims 5-9, 11, 13, 15, 19-22, 33, 36, 37, 39, 42-46, 48, 50, 52, and 56-59, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A solid cleaning composition, comprising:

(a) one or more functional ingredients including at least one of a chelating agent; a sequestering agent; an inorganic detergent; an alkaline source; an organic detergent; a surfactant; a cleaning agent; a rinse aid; a bleaching agent; a sanitizer; an anti-microbial agent; an activator; a detergent builder; a filler; a defoaming agent; an anti-redeposition agent; an optical brightener; a dye; an odorant; a secondary hardening agent; a solubility modifier; a pesticide; a bait for pests; or mixtures or combinations thereof; and

(b) a solid binding agent distributed throughout the solid cleaning composition for binding the one or more functional ingredients, the solid binding agent comprising hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA) and water, wherein the HEDTA cooperates with the water in the formation of the binding agent, wherein the solid binding agent is free of carbonate, wherein the mole a ratio of HEDTA to water by weight is in the range of at least about 3:1, 1:6.25 to about 1:1; and HEDTA constitutes about 15% to about 93% by weight of a total weight of the solid cleaning composition.

~~wherein the composition includes less than a solidification interfering amount of a component that can compete with the HEDTA for water and interfere with solidification.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the ~~mole~~ ratio of HEDTA to water by weight present to form the binding agent is in the range of at least about 3.5:11:5.88 to about 1:1.06.

4. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the ~~mole ratio of HEDTA to water~~ present to form the binding agent is in the range of constitutes about 17.5% 1:3.125 to about 93% 1:1.35 by weight of the total weight of the solid cleaning composition.

5-9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises sodium tripolyphosphate.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a linear alcohol.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a linear alkylate sulfonate.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises an alkali metal salt.

17. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises an alkali metal silicate.

18. (Previously presented). The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition includes less than a weight ratio of about 20.3:1 of tripolyphosphate over HEDTA to water.

19-22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is extruded to form a solid block.

24. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 50 grams or less.

25. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 50 grams or greater.

26. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 500 grams or greater.

27. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 1 kilogram or greater.

28. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is cast into a solid shape.

29. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is extruded into a solid shape.

30. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is formed into a solid shape.

31. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the solid is in the form a pellet.

32. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is in the form of a solid block formed within a container.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A solid cleaning composition produced by the process comprising:

providing one or more functional cleaning ingredients including at least one of a chelating agent; a sequestering agent; an inorganic detergent; an alkaline source; an organic detergent; a surfactant; a cleaning agent; a rinse aid; a bleaching agent; a sanitizer; an anti-microbial agent; an activator; a detergent builder; a filler; a defoaming agent; an anti-redeposition agent; an optical brightener; a dye; an odorant; a secondary hardening agent; a solubility modifier; a pesticide; a bait for pests; or mixtures or combinations thereof;

providing hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA) such that the HEDTA constitutes about 15% to about 93% by weight of a total weight of the solid cleaning composition;

providing water, ~~wherein~~ such that a the ratio of HEDTA to water by weight is in the range of at least about 3:1 to about 1:1; and

admixing the one or more functional cleaning ingredients, the HEDTA, and the water such that the HEDTA and water ~~cooperate to~~ form a solid binding agent distributed throughout the solid cleaning composition for that is free of carbonate and that binds binding the one or more functional cleaning ingredients within the solid cleaning composition; and

~~wherein the composition includes less than a solidification interfering amount of a component that can compete with the HEDTA for water and interfere with solidification.~~

35. (Currently Amended) The solid cleaning composition of claim 34, wherein the ~~mole~~ ratio of HEDTA to water by weight ~~provided to form the binding agent is in the range of at least about 3.5:1~~ ~~1:5.88 to about 1:1.06.~~

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a solid cleaning composition, the method comprising:

providing one or more functional cleaning ingredients including at least one of a chelating agent; a sequestering agent; an inorganic detergent; an alkaline source; an organic detergent; a surfactant; a cleaning agent; a rinse aid; a bleaching agent; a sanitizer; an anti-microbial agent; an activator; a detergent builder; a filler; a defoaming agent; an anti-redeposition agent; an optical brightener; a dye; an odorant; a secondary hardening agent; a solubility modifier; a pesticide; a bait for pests; or mixtures or combinations thereof;

providing hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA) such that the HEDTA constitutes about 15% to about 93% by weight of a total weight of the solid cleaning composition;

providing water, wherein such that a the ratio of HEDTA to water by weight is in the range of at least about 3:1 to about 1:1; and

admixing the one or more functional cleaning ingredients, the HEDTA, and with the
water such that the HEDTA and cooperates with the water in the formation of
form a solid binding agent that is free of carbonate distributed throughout the
solid cleaning composition for binding the one or more functional cleaning
ingredients within the solid cleaning composition; and
~~wherein the solid composition includes less than a solidification interfering amount~~
~~of a component that can compete with the HEDTA for water and interfere~~
~~with solidification.~~

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the ~~mole-ratio~~ of HEDTA to water by weight present to form the binding agent is in the range of at least about 3.5:11:5.88 to about 1:1.06.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the ~~mole-ratio of HEDTA to water~~ present to form the binding agent is in the range of constitutes about 17.5% 1:3.125 to about 93% 1:1.35 by weight of the total weight of the solid cleaning composition.

42-46. (Canceled)

47. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises sodium tripolyphosphate.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises a linear alcohol.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises a linear alkylate sulfonate.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises an alkali metal salt.

54. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition further comprises an alkali metal silicate.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition includes less than a weight ratio of about 20.3:1 of tripolyphosphate over HEDTA to water.

56-59. (Canceled)

60. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is extruded to form a solid block.

61. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 50 grams or less.

62. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 50 grams or greater.

63. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 500 grams or greater.

64. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is formed into a solid mass having a weight in the range of 1 kilogram or greater.

65. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is cast into a solid shape.

66. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is extruded into a solid shape.

67. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is formed into a solid shape.

68. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the solid is in the form of a pellet.

69. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the solid composition is in the form of a solid block formed within a container.